EAST BAY EXPRESS



OAKLAND'S WARRIORS

The massive and wildly successful victory parade and rally last week showed why the Warriors belong in Oakland. *By Robert Gammon*

INSIDE: See our news story, *"Building a Champion,"* page 14, and the feature story, *"Superhighways in the Sky,"* page 16.



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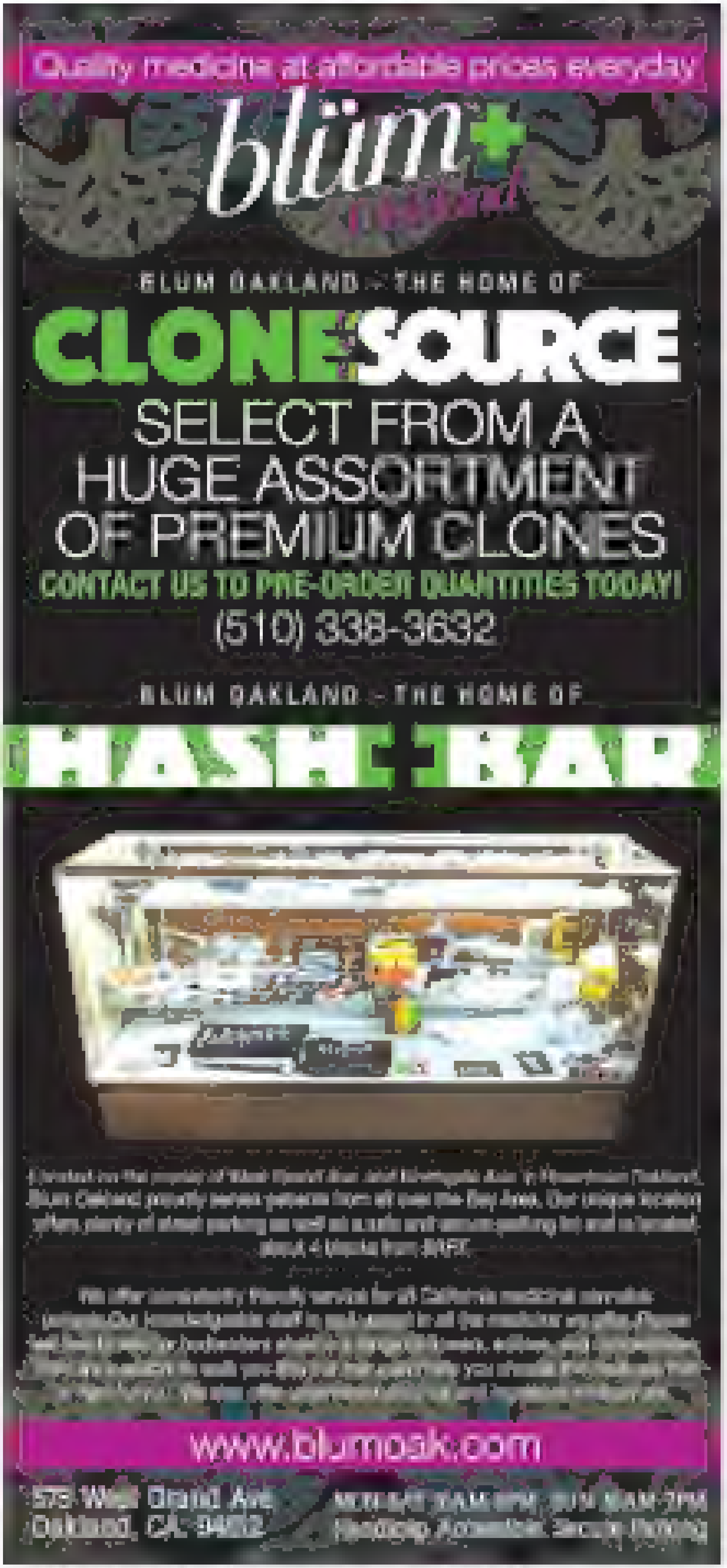
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NEWS&OPINION



LETTERS

Nice Work

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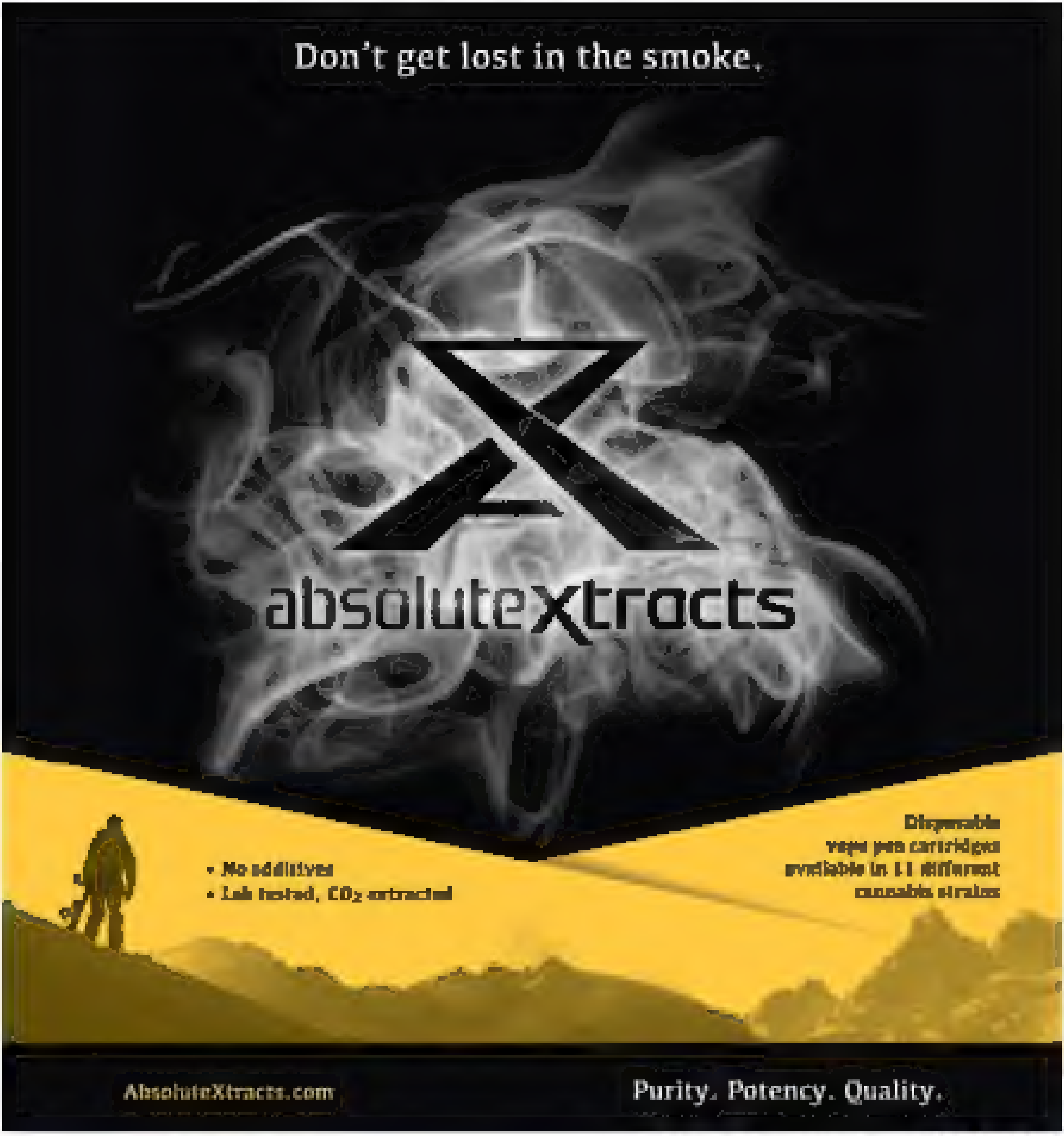
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Schaaf Did What She Had to Do

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Oakland's Warriors

The massive and wildly successful victory parade and rally last week showed why the Warriors belong in Oakland.

By Robert Gammon

For more than three years, Joe Lacob and Peter Guber, co-owners of the Golden State Warriors, have made it clear that they want to move the team to San Francisco. Lacob and Guber even bought land last year on the San Francisco waterfront for their proposed new arena. The Warriors owners obviously hope to make a killing from the city's tech boom, selling expensive luxury boxes and season tickets to San Francisco's burgeoning class of tech-boom millionaires. But while the new arena plan might very well make Lacob and Guber a ton of money, it would also essentially backfire. That's because the team risks losing its soul due to the fact that an expensive new arena will undoubtedly price out many members of the Warriors' loyal, working-class fan base.

And that would be a big mistake — as last week's wildly successful victory parade and rally in Oakland proved.

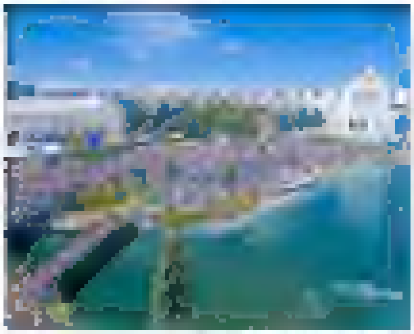
If you missed it, the event on Friday was absolutely fabulous. Hundreds of thousands of fans (Oakland police estimated that it was a million) crowded onto Oakland's streets to get a glimpse of their beloved Warriors, who had won the NBA championship three days earlier. A massive cheering crowd along the shores of Lake Merritt to watch the victory rally in front of the Henry J. Kaiser Center. Oakland opened its arms to the Warriors — Children's Fairyland even changed its name for the day to Rileyland in honor of the precocious two-year-old daughter of Warriors' star player Stephen Curry.

"It was spectacular," Oakland Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan said of the event and the throngs of ecstatic fans who crowded. "It was simply spectacular."

It was spectacular. But Oakland's love for the Warriors started long before last Friday. On Tuesday night last week, as the Warriors were closing out their series in Cleveland against the Cavaliers, fans paid $15 a ticket just to watch their team on a TV screen at Oracle Arena in Oakland. It sold out.

Sellouts are nothing new at the Oracle, either. The Warriors have been packing them in for as long as anyone can remember — even when the team was horrible during the late Nineties and early Aughts. If you've never been to a Warriors' game, you've missed out on a quintessential East Bay/Oakland experience (much like A's and Raiders games). The diverse, working-class, die-hard fans of the Warriors reflect Oakland itself: scrappy, vocal, and sometimes loyal.

But say goodbye to all of that if Lacob and Guber get their way. A shiny new arena in San Francisco promises to become nothing more than just another playground for the rich. People wealthy enough to afford tickets at the new facility are more likely to attend because of the arena than because of their love for basketball.



Greg Linhares, City of Oakland

Just ask the San Francisco 49ers. Like Lacob and Guber, the owners of the 49ers — the York family — clearly saw massive dollar signs when they decided to move the team to Santa Clara and build a state-of-the-art stadium there. But in their quest for profits, the Yorks left much of the team's faithful behind. Longtime season ticketholders simply couldn't afford the new expensive seats in the South Bay. And so they were replaced by wealthy newcomers who seemed as if they had little interest in the actual game. Last year, it was commonplace to see large swaths of empty seats at Levi's stadium, because the team's new breed of fan was content to watch the action from the high-priced bars and clubs inside the stadium. Niner home games are now among the most quiet in the NFL — at times they [illegible] more like a [illegible] than a football game.

"Rather than dedicated fans, you get people who buy tickets for other reasons," Kaplan noted.

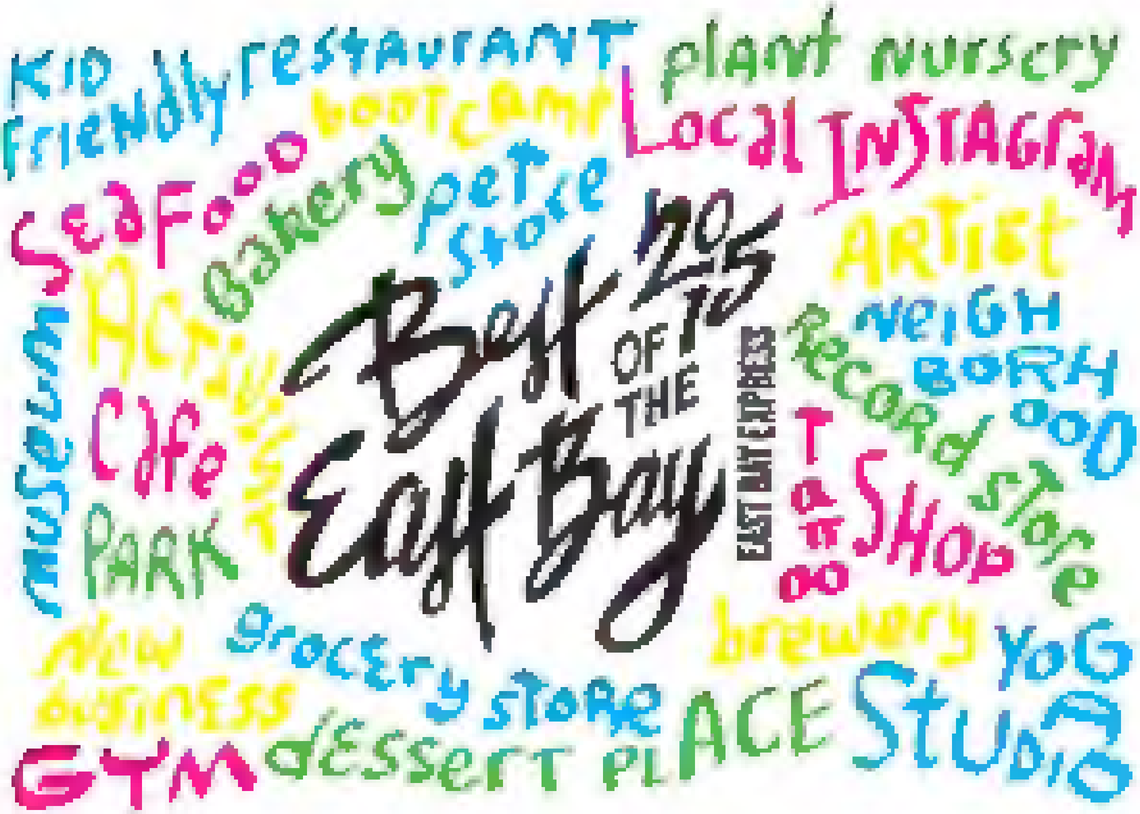
And that's precisely what will happen if Lacob and Guber spend a fortune on a new arena in San Francisco. They're wealthy men who accumulated their riches by maintaining a keen focus on profits, and so they'll undoubtedly want to recoup their investment in San Francisco by charging exorbitant prices for Warriors games.

Hopefully, either the 49ers' experience in Santa Clara or the massive victory parade and rally in Oakland last week will change their minds. If not, perhaps the best Oakland fans can hope for is that wealthy donors of UC San Francisco Medical Center who oppose Lacob and Guber's proposal in the city (because they say it will harm UCSF) will be able to block the proposed arena.

If that were to happen, then Lacob and Guber would be forced to give Oakland another chance. And if they're intent on having a new arena, building one in Oakland likely will be cheaper, too, because property prices are less expensive here. As such, a new arena in Oakland should also result in lower ticket prices than in San Francisco, enabling the team to maintain its fan base. That's especially true if the Warriors choose to build on publicly owned land — whether at the current Coliseum site or on city land along the waterfront.

Oakland, after all, is where the real Warriors fans are.

Send letters to letters@eastbayexpress.com



It's Time to Vote for Best of the East Bay!

Where are your favorite places to slurp noodles, bargain-shop, and get drunk? Cast your votes for our Best of the East Bay issue! Voting begins on Wednesday, June 3.

Go to **EastBayExpress.com/ballot** to cast your votes.

Official Ballot Rules: No Cheating

All votes must be cast via our website. All ballots must be submitted by midnight, Sunday, July 5. Only one ballot per person. Your votes should be your own. Duplicate ballots reflecting slate voting will be discarded, as will ballots that have been influenced by gifts, discounts, or financial incentives. Valid ballots must have legitimate votes in at least ten categories. Participants may submit comments about any winner — the best of which will be compiled and published in the Best of the East Bay issue (July 22, 2015).

Go to EastBayExpress.com/ballot to cast your votes.

Arts & Culture

Best annual event
Best art gallery
Best artist
Best band
Best dance company
Best DJ night at a club
Best karaoke venue
Best local author
Best local filmmaker
Best museum
Best music venue
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
Best nightclub
Best performing arts venue
Best place to see a movie
Best record label
Best theater company
Category we didn't think of

Goods & Services

Best art and craft supplies
Best antiques store
Best bagels
Best bakery
Best barbershop
Best bike shop
Best bookstore
Best boutique
Best brewery
Best butcher shop
Best cannabis dispensary
Best car repair
Best children's store
Best eyeglass shop
Best farmers' market
Best furniture store
Best game store
Best grocery store
Best hair salon
Best local winery
Best locally produced goods
Best musicians' [illegible] shop
Best massage
[illegible]
Best pet store
Best place for [illegible]
Best plant nursery
Best record store
Best sex shop
Best shoe store
Best spa
Best specialty food store
Best tattoo shop or artist
Best used or vintage clothing
Best veterinarian
Best wine shop
Category we didn't think of

People & Places

Best activist
Best co-working space
[illegible]
Best company to work for
Best local Instagram account
Best local Twitter account
Best neighborhood
Best nonprofit or charity
Best park
Best pick-up spot
Best place to learn DIY or homesteading skills
Best place to take the kids
Best place to walk your dog
Best politician
Best professor or college instructor
Best urban garden
[illegible]
Category we didn't think of

Restaurants & Bars

Best African restaurant
Best ambiance at a restaurant
Best bar
Best barbecue
Best bartender
Best beer bar
Best breakfast/brunch
Best brewery
Best cafe
Best California cuisine
Best chef
Best Chinese restaurant
Best cocktails
Best coffee
Best delivery service
Best dessert place
Best food at a bar
Best ice cream
Best Indian/Pakistani restaurant
Best Italian restaurant
Best Japanese/sushi restaurant
Best kid-friendly restaurant
Best Korean restaurant
Best late-night food
Best locally sourced/organic menu
Best Mexican restaurant
Best Middle Eastern restaurant
Best mobile food vendor
Best new bar
Best new restaurant
Best outdoor seating
Best pizza
Best restaurant for a date
Best sandwiches
Best seafood
Best service at a restaurant
Best Southeast Asian restaurant
Best Southern/soul food
Best special occasion restaurant
Best takeout
Best vegetarian/vegan restaurant
Category we didn't think of

Sports & Leisure

Best bike ride
Best boot camp
Best boxing/martial arts studio
Best CrossFit
Best fitness class
Best fitness instructor
Best group athletic activity
Best gym
Best neighborhood park
Best outdoor or sporting goods store
Best place to hike
Best place to picnic
Best place to run
Best place to swim
Best yoga studio
Best yoga teacher
Most unusual athletic event
Category we didn't think of

EAST BAY EXPRESS

ECO WATCH

Tree Removal Plan Still Sparking Debate

A plan that would thin eucalyptus trees in the East Bay hills rather than clear-cut them is angering environmental and neighborhood groups, who either say it goes too far or not far enough.

By Sophie Ha

For residents of the East Bay hills, the question is not whether another fire will happen, but how bad the event will be. The hills are prone to particularly destructive fires, a result of hot, dry weather in summer and fall, huge amounts of flammable vegetation that litter the hills' forests, and the limited access that firefighters have to the area. Over the past century, fifteen major wildfires have raged through the hills. The worst, of course, was the 1991 firestorm, also known as the Tunnel Fire, which killed 25 people and destroyed thousands of homes.

In the years after the fire, UC Berkeley, the City of Oakland, and the East Bay Regional Park District began devising plans to cut down on the number of trees and plants in the hills in order to reduce the fuel load during future fires. The three public agencies then applied for millions of dollars in grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to pay for their vegetation-management plans.



Eucalyptus in Claremont Canyon.

Oakland and UC Berkeley came up with similar proposals, both of which called for the wholesale removal of eucalyptus trees, a highly combustible nonnative species that was widely blamed for fueling the 1991 firestorm. Environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, strongly backed these plans, while some neighborhood groups staunchly opposed them on the grounds that they amounted to clear-cutting. The East Bay Regional Park District, by contrast, settled on a plan to gradually thin the eucalyptus and other vegetation over time.

In March, FEMA announced the approval of $5.6 million in grants to UC Berkeley, the City of Oakland, and the East Bay Regional Park District. But in its approval of the funds, FEMA advised UC Berkeley and Oakland to adhere to the "thinning" method similar to the one proposed by the park district — rather than their clear-cutting plans.

Since FEMA's announcement, environmental and community groups have both criticized FEMA's decision — from opposite points of view. They've argued either that the eucalyptus removal plans go too far or not far enough. Both sides argue that the plans will not help prevent or limit future fires. Some fire experts, however, disagree.

Keith Gilless, dean of UC Berkeley's College of Natural Resources, said the thinning plan likely will be effective. The eucalyptus trees pose a larger risk in the hills, he explained, than in other locations, because there are so many of them and they're clustered together. It's not just that the trees are "quite flammable," he said, but that the eucalyptus groves in the hills are so dense.

In dense forests with closed canopies, he said, flames can jump through the treetops, propagating what's known as a crown fire. Thinning the trees and therefore reducing the canopy, he said, would help reduce the risk of a crown fire in the hills. "Looking at this as someone who's been a forester for more than thirty years, I think partially reducing the amount of forest cover is highly appropriate given the risk that the current vegetation mostly poses to people of Oakland and Berkeley," Gilless said.

He said that FEMA's plan tries to achieve an appropriate balance between the ecological and cultural aesthetic of the region. "Emotions do run high in this because people like forests and trees," Gilless said. "The right plan is always a bit of a compromise between a lot of different ideologies."

But some neighborhood groups contend that eucalyptus trees are still being scapegoated in the FEMA plan, and the federal agency's directive will result in the widespread removal of trees — more akin to clear-cutting than thinning. Dan Grassetti, president of the Hills Conservation Network, contends that the worries about eucalyptus are overblown. He also raises concerns about the fact that the public agencies intend to apply herbicide to the eucalyptus tree stumps in order to prevent future sprouting. (In its report, FEMA stated that herbicides would be applied by hand and its effects would not be significant.)

"It's true that the eucalyptus trees shed litter, but it's also true that every tree has some sort of detritus," he said. Grassetti said that instead of focusing on removing eucalyptus, it would make more sense to eliminate the ground fuels and regularly clear the understory — the layer of vegetation that accumulates on forest floors.

But the Sierra Club and the group Claremont Canyon Conservancy contend that the thinning plan won't be nearly as effective as permanently removing and replacing the eucalyptus trees with native vegetation. Norman La Force of the Sierra Club's San Francisco Bay Chapter, calls the thinning plan a "complete shift" from the earlier proposals. He noted the danger that eucalyptus trees pose in propagating fire, and questions why FEMA would not endorse removing more of the nonnative trees.

"I like eucalyptus, too. They're fine trees in the appropriate location," said La Force, who is also president of the group Sustainability, Parks, Recycling, and Wildlife Legal Defense Fund. "But they seem to have some notion that trying to restore a habitat that was here and that is better in terms of fire safety is the wrong thing to do because we already have the eucalyptus. That's like saying BP has already destroyed the Gulf, so let's just start putting oil pumps all over the Gulf of Mexico. Just because that's the way it is doesn't mean that's the way it should be."

When it announced its grant approvals, FEMA noted that it had determined that eradicating eucalyptus, as UC Berkeley and Oakland had proposed, did not "satisfy the purpose and need for the grant of fire reduction" — and therefore didn't meet the hazard mitigation program eligibility requirements. FEMA also requested that the agencies involved adopt a "unified methodology" that is modeled after the park district's thinning approach.

Although the Hills Conservation Network and the Sierra Club have opposite views about eucalyptus and the FEMA plan, both have filed lawsuits against the federal agency, raising issues of public transparency and alleging that FEMA didn't fully consider other alternatives to the plan it put forth. Both groups said they're concerned that the "unified methodology" is ambiguous and needs to be compared to more alternative proposals.

Both groups are in talks with FEMA, and hope to reach a settlement. FEMA representatives said they couldn't comment on the pending litigation. Both sides noted that it will be a while before any vegetation removal plan proceeds in the hills. (The exact number of eucalyptus trees that would be cut down also is ambiguous, because the plans are goals based on the number of trees per acre rather than on the number of trees to be removed.)

Jon Kaufman, director of stewardship for the Claremont Canyon Conservancy, said that, although his group supports the Sierra Club's view and thinks the FEMA plan will not remove enough eucalyptus trees, his organization opted not to join the lawsuit. He said that the group just wants to move forward. "This has been going on for more than ten years," Kaufman said, noting that the drought and the bone-dry conditions in the hills this year increase the risk of another disastrous and deadly blaze. "We really don't want to delay things any further. The sooner we can make the concern move forward, the better."

Oakland Seeks 'Predictive Policing' Software

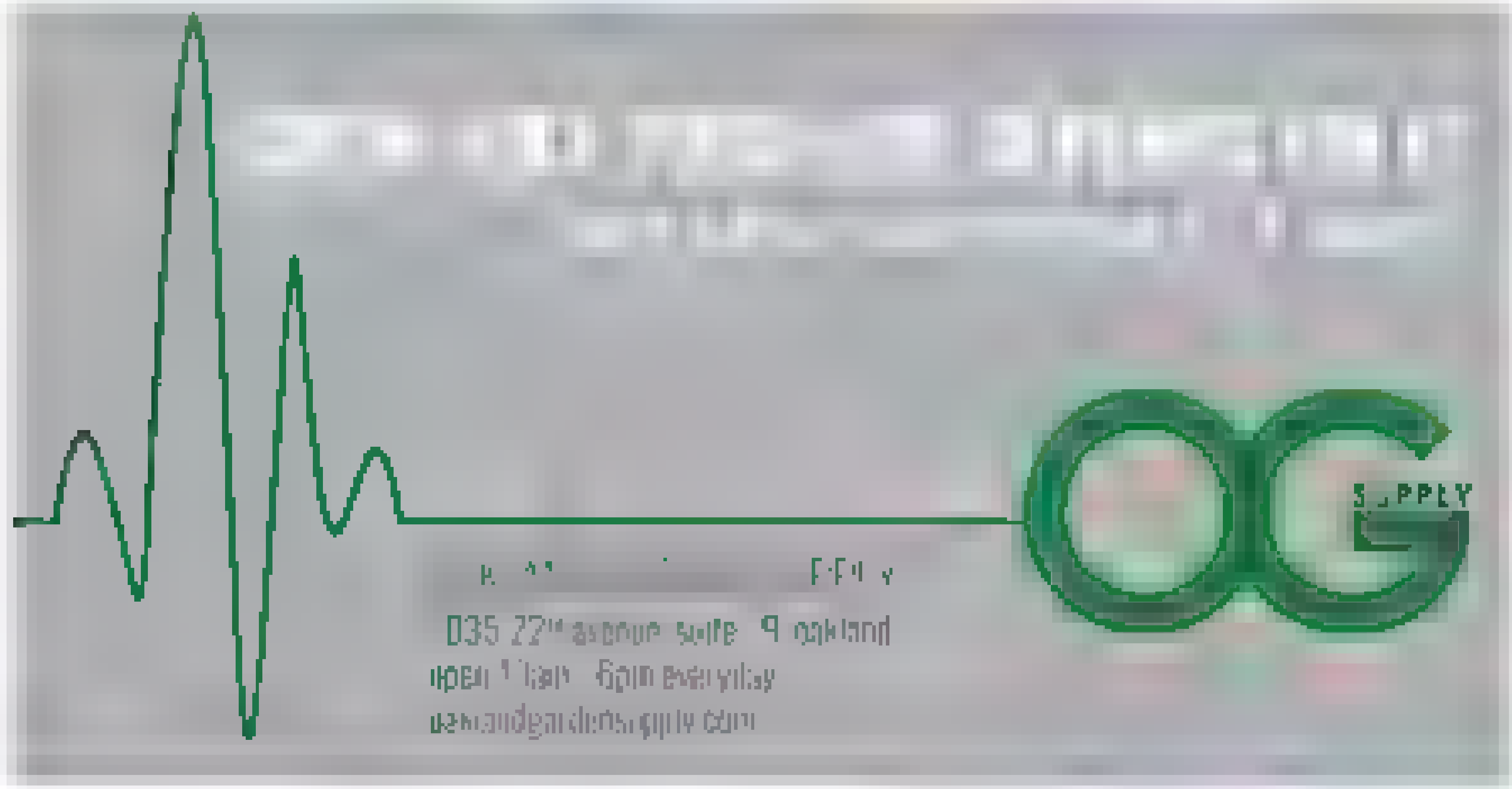







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SUPPLY

Building a Champion

Five moves that stacked the Warriors to the title — and a look to the future

By Mark Anderson



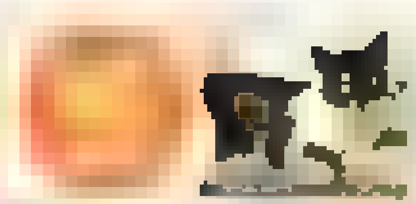
Superhighways in the Sky

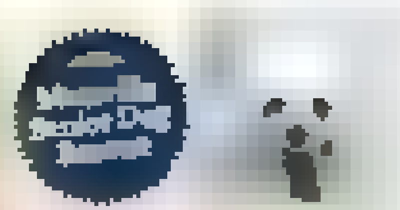
The FAA is burdening Bay Area communities and wildlife habitats with aerial freeways for jet planes. And even the National Park Service can't stop the noise

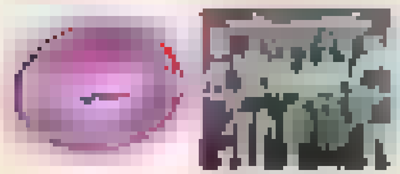
By Sam Levin



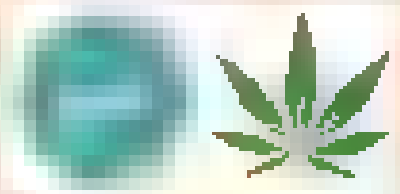








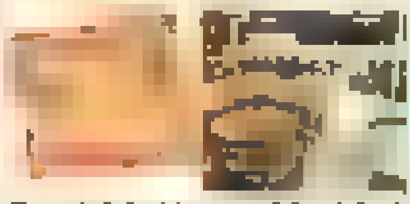


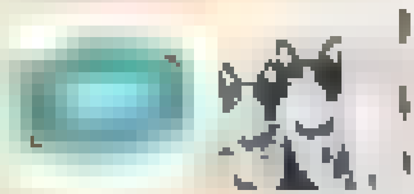


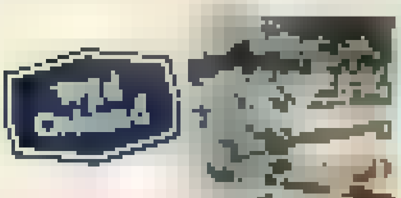


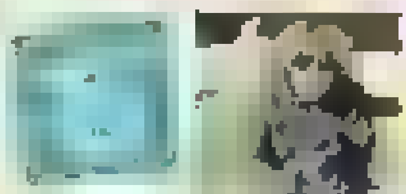


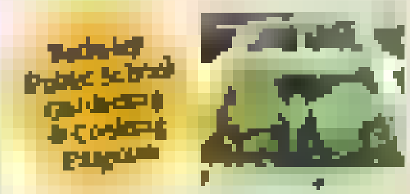


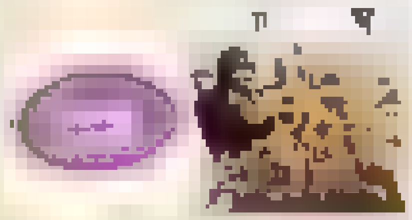
























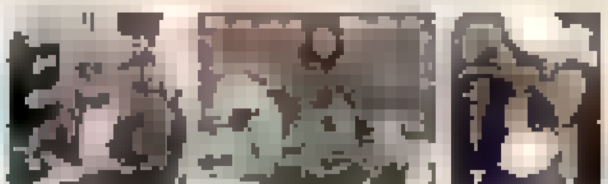




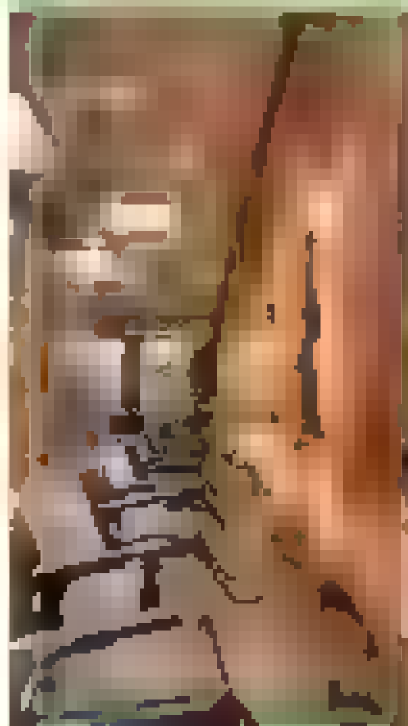















Oakland Floats


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so-called "listening area" for birds and frogs by half — meaning that wildlife and the longer hear sounds of the natural world in the surrounding area. (A listening area represents the size of a geographic area in which wildlife can hear a sound. An increase of six decibels — a doubling in sound intensity — is often considered a doubling of loudness.) "That has implications for all animals that depend on being able to hear or being heard," Buxton said.

Prolonged exposure to noise, Fristrup wrote in a recent study, can cause wildlife to avoid certain areas altogether, thus further influencing the already limited potential habitat for some species. For example, studies of songbirds near oil and gas development have found noise contributed to bird density, bird species diversity, and pairing success.

The NPS has also conducted extensive surveys on the way unwanted sounds impact visitors' experiences, revealing unsurprising conclusions — that park-goers value the quiet and that noise is particularly disruptive to those who have journeyed into the wilderness. One study found that 72 percent of Americans believe that one of the most important reasons for preserving national parks is to protect the opportunities to experience natural peace and natural sounds. According to the NPS, Fristrup has often talked about how natural quiet has a documented calming effect on people, while vehicle noise can have the opposite impact.

As Cicely Muldoon, superintendent of Point Reyes National Seashore, explained in an interview: "For people coming out for a [illegible] experience [illegible]." [illegible] "Given that this kind of park experience exists so close to a major metropolitan area," she added, "Point Reyes is really quite extraordinary. ... The quality of the sound is really profound."

In light of [illegible] to protect natural sounds, the NPS and individual parks have limited vehicle traffic, used quieter mechanical equipment for maintenance and infrastructure projects, and educated visitors about ways they can help preserve quiet areas.

Compared to significantly more complicated environmental threats, such as climate change and invasive plants, restoring the quiet in federally protected lands is relatively simple and achievable, said Stephen [illegible], NPS chief of natural resource management for Golden Gate National Recreation Area (a series of parks that extends from Marin County, just south of Point Reyes, to the Peninsula). "With all the other pressures we have, this is one that could be controlled," she said. "These are incredibly important resources of all kinds — and visitors come here from all over the world to appreciate these resources."

When it comes to the biggest source of noise pollution for parks — aircraft buzzing overhead — officials throughout the federal government have long acknowledged the problem. In 1994, the NPS produced a lengthy report for Congress that investigated the effects of aircraft flights over national parks. That report noted that biologists believe flight noise disturbances might be causing animals to abandon their habitats, expend themselves while in [illegible], and suffer a loss of energy due to the stress of chronic disruption.

The NPS's subsequent soundscape monitoring projects — along with local airports' official noise reports — have documented that, for some parks, the jet noise is, in fact, chronic. In 2010, SFO's Aircraft Noise Abatement Office reported an average of 105 flights per day over Point Reyes. And in 2012, the FAA and the NPS collaborated on a sound report for the park, which concluded that aircraft noise was audible for as much as 71 percent of the day in certain parts of Point Reyes.

A similar 2013-2014 NPS report for Yosemite National Park found long [illegible] aircraft flights [illegible], also determined significant noise impacts from jets at sensitive habitats and popular backcountry hiking areas. The NPS found that aircraft were audible 53 percent of the day at Gaylor Lake near Tioga Pass, 53 percent of the time at Tuolumne Meadows, and between 25 and 45 percent of locations along the Tioga Road corridor. "A lot of high altitude jets [illegible] funneled over Yosemite," said Vicki Ward, NPS soundscape program manager who is also based in Colorado. "[illegible] unusual."

Given the extensive research documenting that jet noise produces negative environmental [illegible], NPS officials were hopeful that the FAA's NextGen project would provide a unique opportunity to preserve and restore the natural quiet. In 2014, the FAA's noise data suggested that the NextGen-based flight routes would actually increase jet sounds over certain sensitive habitats, NPS officials were alarmed.

The data was especially troubling considering that the FAA was claiming that its project would have no significant impact on the environment.

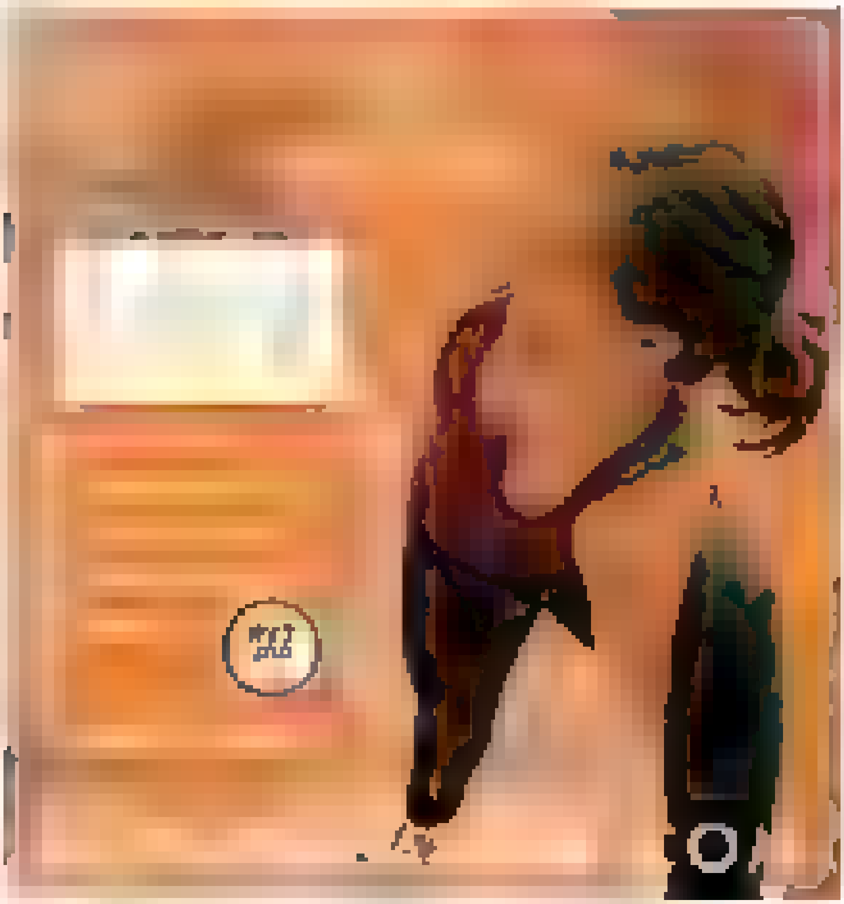
When [illegible] the NPS officials in San Francisco [illegible] a large stack of reports from the NextGen Metroplex research. The records included several years worth of letters between the FAA and the NPS, along with detailed analyses of the noise data that the FAA released in its environmental assessment. The documents provide insight into the challenging process that the NPS faced in documenting NextGen's impacts on wilderness areas — and park officials' ongoing struggle to convince the FAA to take their concerns seriously.

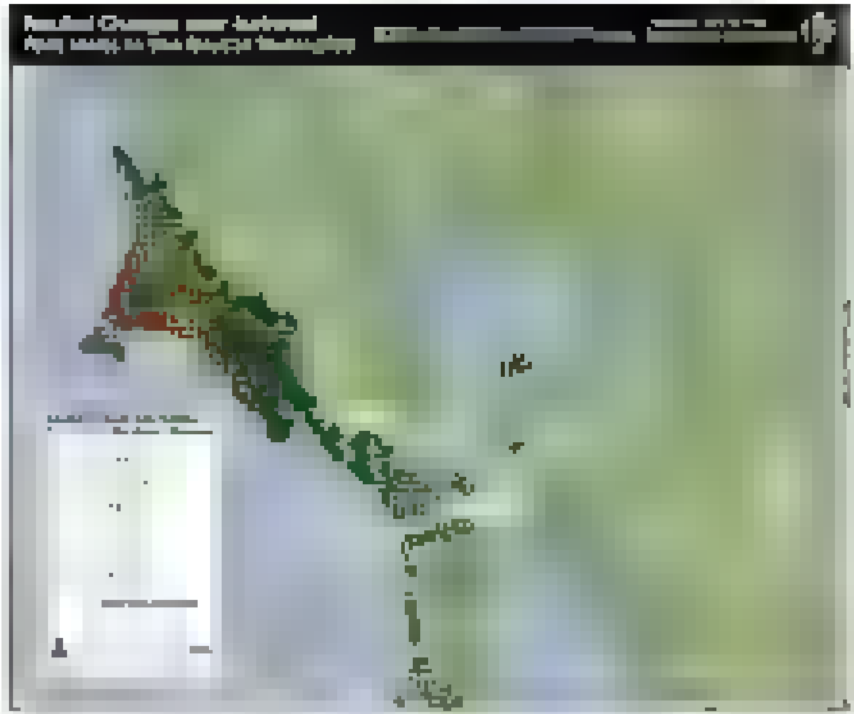
As part of the hundreds of pages of documents that the FAA released in its initial environmental report last spring, the agency published an extensive Aircraft Noise Technical Report with projected sound level changes for more than 12,000 individual grid points within the NorCal Metroplex. The data included hundreds of points corresponding to specific geographic locations inside Point Reyes and Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the two parks most impacted by regional flights.

Although multiple NPS officials had urged the administration to closely consider potential impacts on federally protected wilderness areas, the FAA's own data provided no comprehensible explanation of the projected effect on national parks.









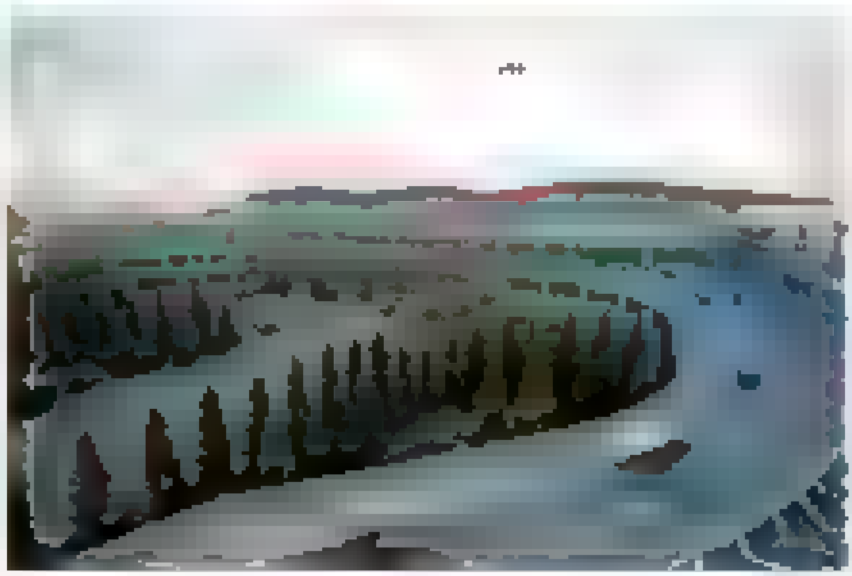



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By Sarah Burke






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In *Potentially Atemporal*, young artists abandon art history for Internet aesthetics.

By Sarah Burke








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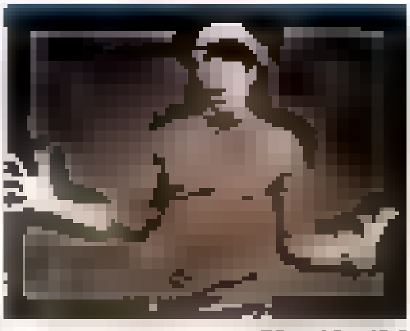


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Shattering Stereotypes

By Gillian Edevane



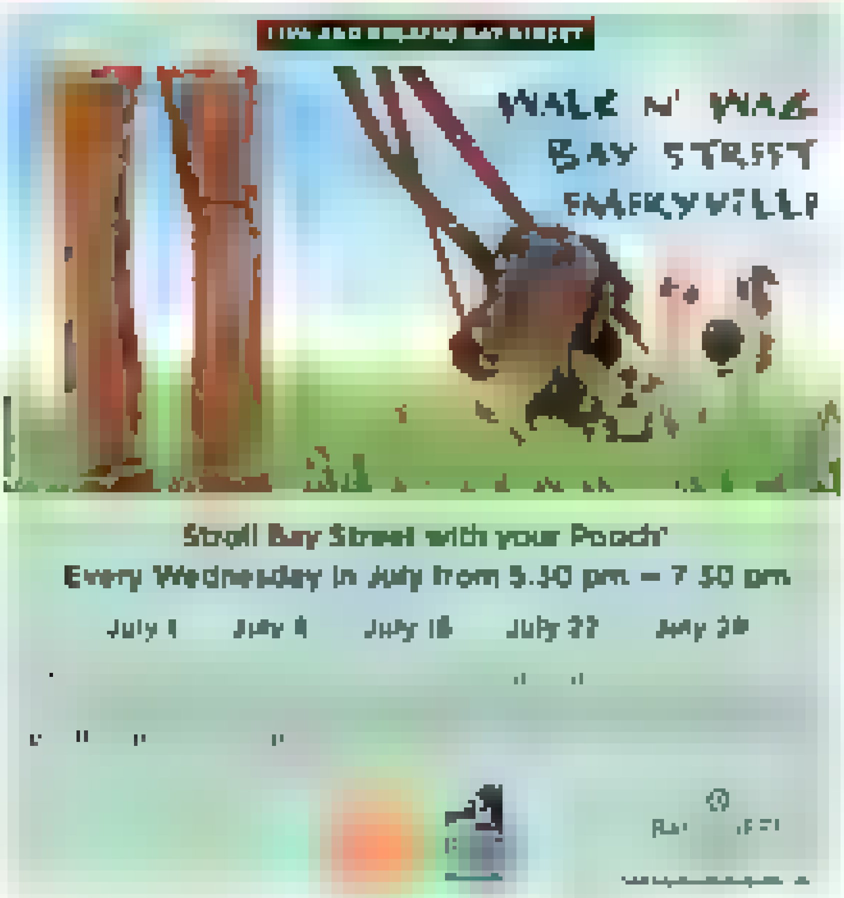
Event Details











Words With a Shaman

Infamous interviews done by late Berkeley artist Frank Moore are now being published.

By Sarah Burke

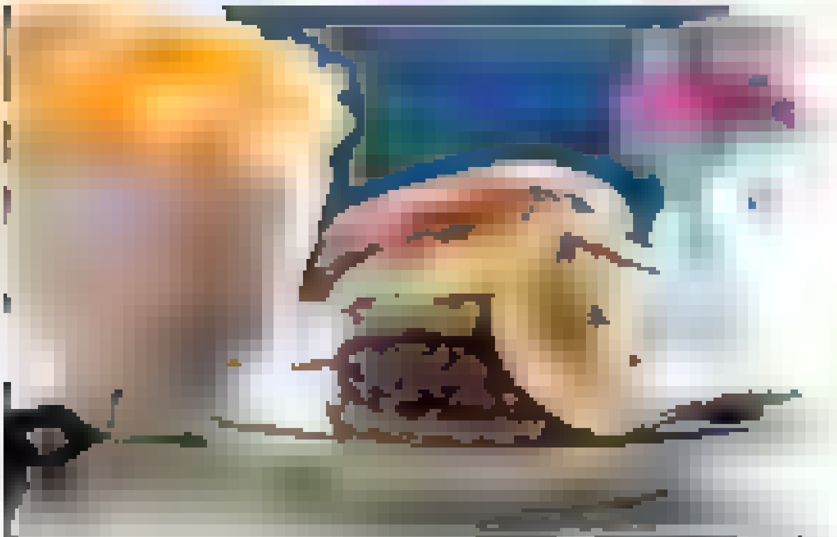






Net Neutrality: A Driver of Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility

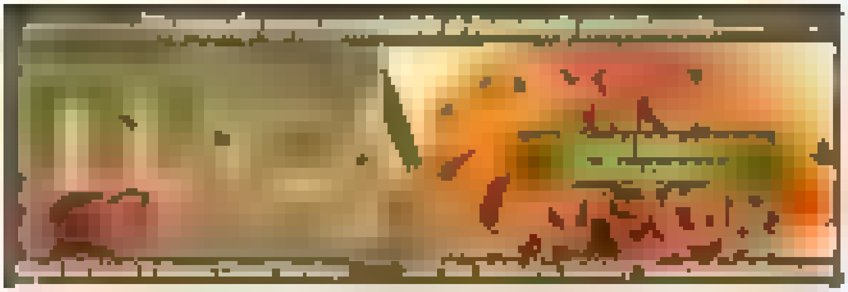




A Burger for the End of Civilization

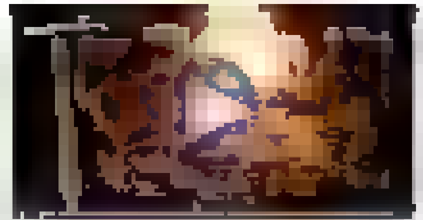
Eating one of KronnerBurger's decadent sandwiches feels like how the ancient Greek or Roman ruling classes must have rolled.

By Luke Tsai




EXTREME DELIVERY


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Join us for a very special open-air farm-fresh feast
June 30th • Knoll Farms, Brentwood
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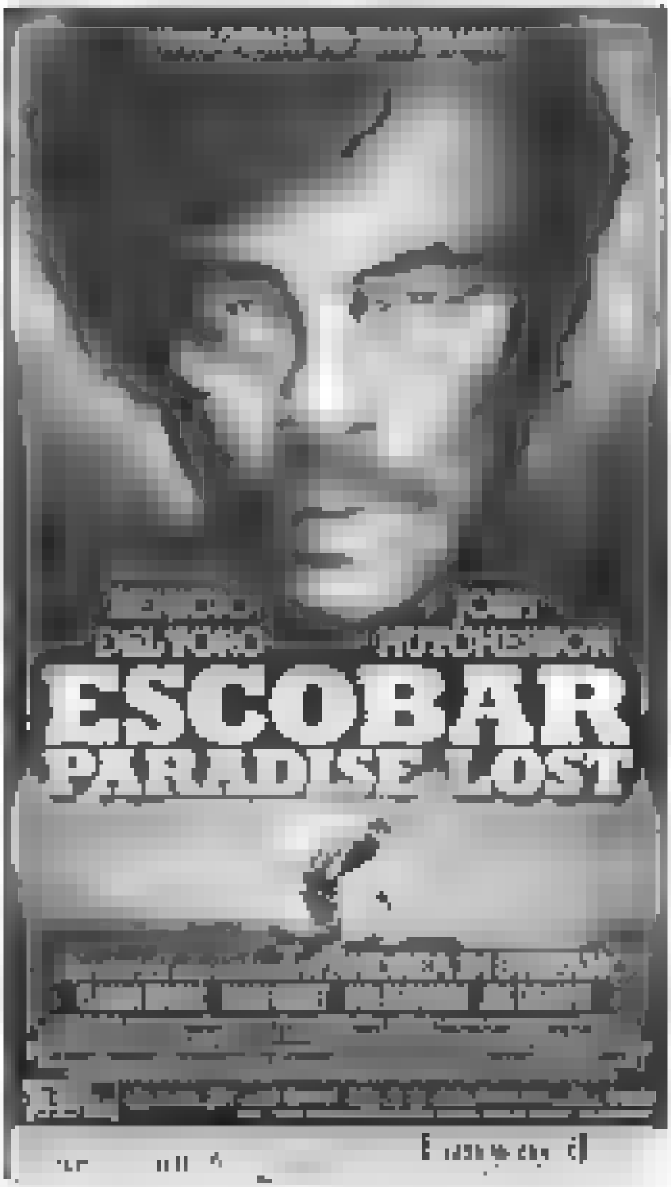
Stovetop Beer Brewing



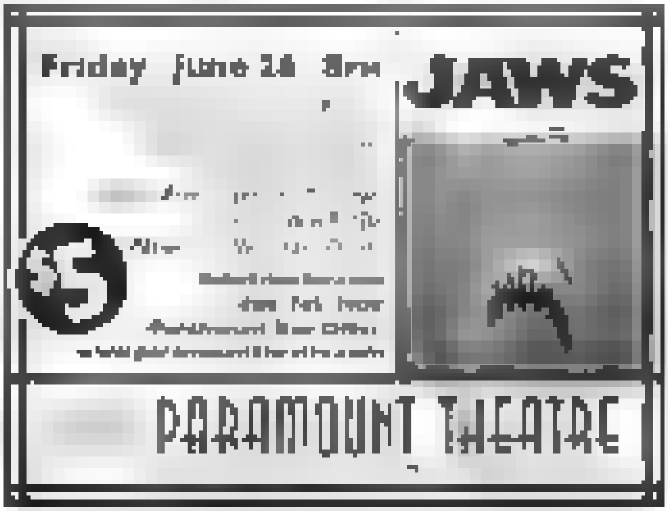
Stereotypes? What Stereotypes?




"A MASTERPIECE!"
UTTERLY IRRESISTIBLE
ME AND EARL AND THE DYING GIRL



DEL TORO
HUTCHERSON
ESCOBAR
PARADISE LOST



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$5
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"ALICIA VIKANDER IS ELECTRIFYING
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Lactic Halo




THE FOX
THEATER
JILL SCOTT
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3
NEW POLITICS
Marina and the Diamonds
THE NEIGHBOURHOOD
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24



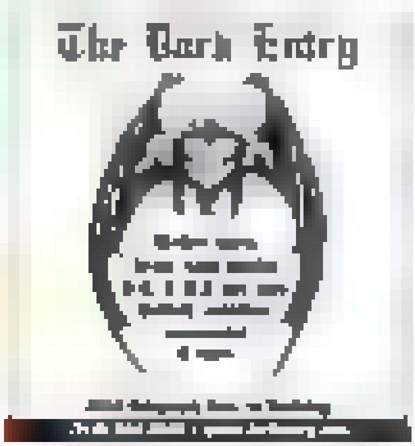


Stormy Mondays No More












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Rock & Pop

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SATURDAY 27

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

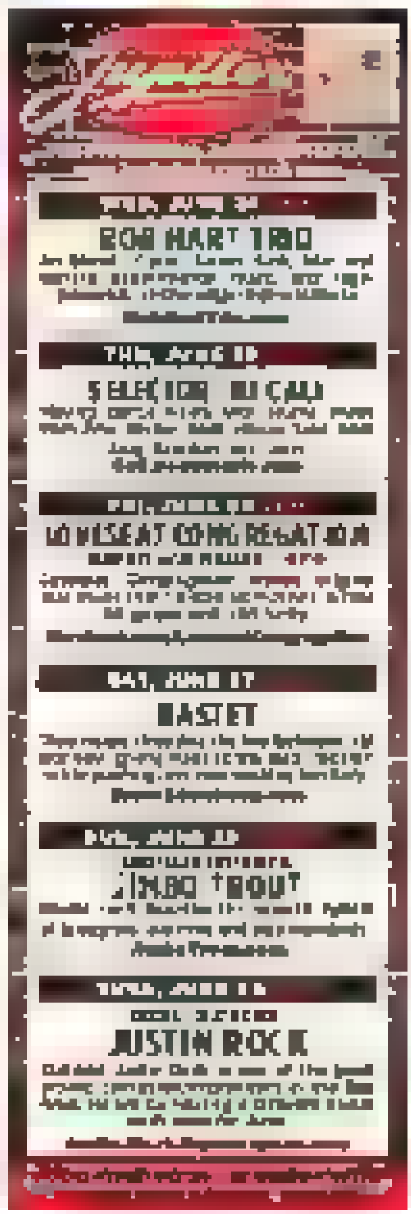
Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

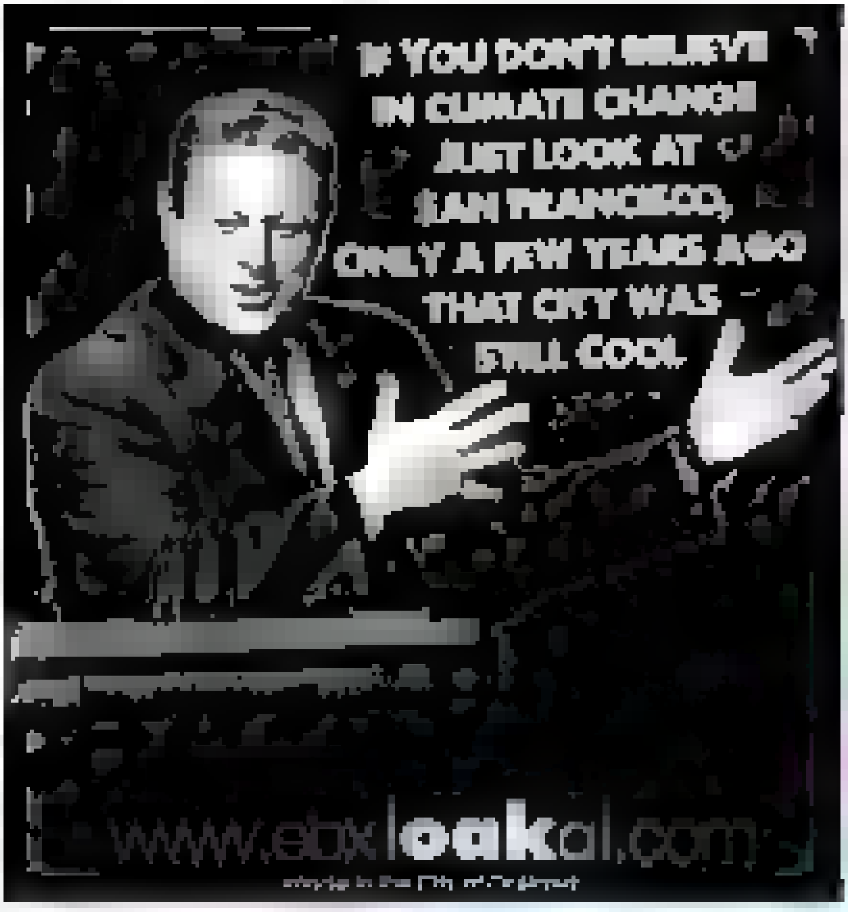
Experimental & Avant-Garde

Gospel & Vocal








IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE
IN CLIMATE CHANGE
JUST LOOK AT
(SAN FRANCISCO),
ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO
THAT CITY WAS
STILL COOL


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LIVE AT AMOEBA BERKELEY
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Birth of a New Breed
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w/ special guest Carlos Reyes
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Rock & Pop

SUNDAY 28

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Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Gospel & Vocal

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Try the Pie



MONDAY 29

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop


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TUESDAY 30

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Blues, Folk, & Country

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

WEDNESDAY 1

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

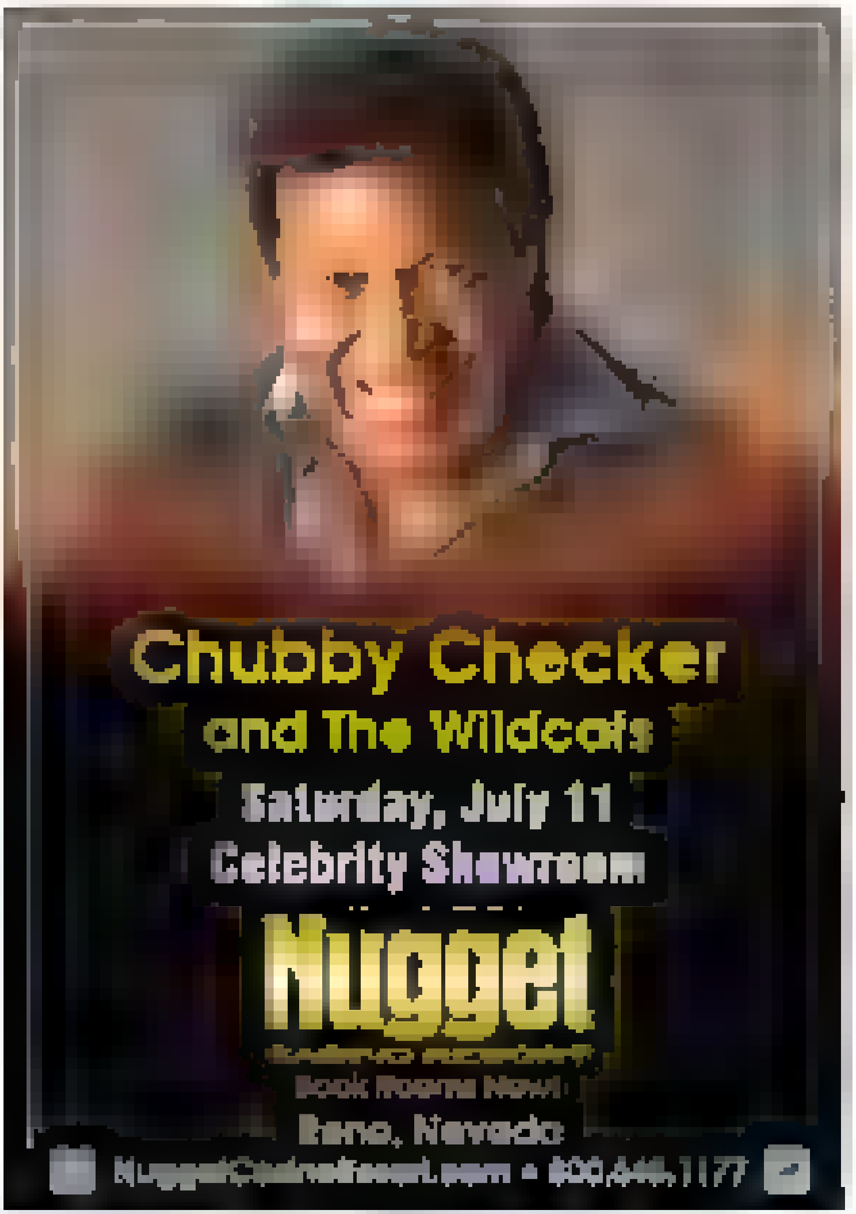
World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop





THURSDAY 25

SATURDAY 27

Obsidian Blade

FRIDAY 26

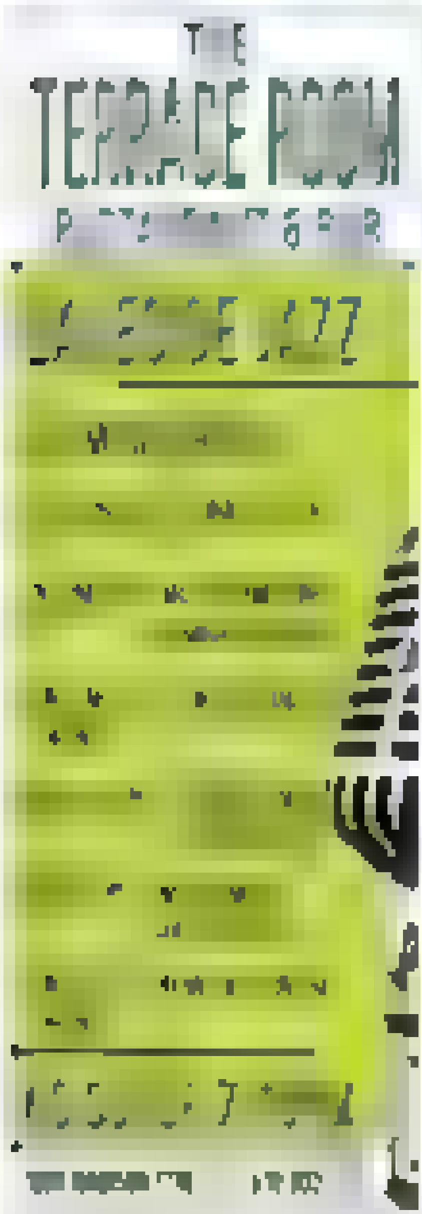
SUNDAY 28

MONDAY 29

TUESDAY 30

WEDNESDAY 1





Free Will Astrology



Better Off Without

It's time to end bad relationships.

By Dan Savage

I am a male grad student who is technically engaged to a female grad student. She has numerous positive qualities, but she is repulsed by sex. She is very sensitive about her repulsion and becomes distraught when I broach the subject. She says that even the thought of doing anything sexual with me elicits a panic attack. She also insists that she is "broken" because, in the hopes of preventing me from leaving her, she forced herself to go further than she felt comfortable. We are both virgins, and she further claims that we may never sexually consummate. She has never seen me completely naked or expressed any interest in reaching that point with me. When she revealed that any form of sexual affection prompted panic attacks and psychological distress, I decided to call off our engagement. She proceeded to threaten to kill herself and blame me for her aversion to sex. I agreed to continue the relationship but insisted that we postpone marriage. She refuses to go to couples counseling. I love her and enjoy her companionship, but my sexual self-esteem is devastated. I feel rejected and bitter, and I am still with her mainly because of guilt. Although she denies that this contributes to the situation, she also holds strong religious convictions. She claims that she always had a weak libido and that bodily fluids (especially semen) disgust her. Finally, despite her use of oral contraceptives, she fears pregnancy. She also disapproves of my family and friends, my interest in science, my distrust of religion, and my use of antidepressants. My questions: (1) If she never overcomes or transforms her sexual aversion, do I have a lifelong obligation to remain with her? (2) Barring cheating, the impetus for her decision to break up with a previous boyfriend, what other options do I have? (3) Could her sexual aversion ever dissipate? (4) Could her sexual aversion stem from spirituality?

Gradually Escalating Threats Obligate Unending Togetherness

1. You are not obligated to stay with this unpleasant woman for the next fifty years just because you made the mistake of proposing to her. And even if she started fucking you, GETOUT, do you really want to be with her?

2. Why not cheating? If taking herself hostage is so intimidating that it prevents you from breaking up with her (threatening to kill herself equals taking herself hostage), then go ahead and cheat on her, or pretend to cheat on her, and let her break up with you.

3. Her sexual aversion may dissipate over time. Or it may not. But someone who doesn't want to fuck someone — and she clearly doesn't want to fuck you — rarely starts wanting to fuck that someone down the road. So she may get over her sexual aversion in time, but she'll probably be fucking someone else when she does — even if she's married to you.

4. Could be that, sure. But unless you're willing to live a sexless life with a manipulative spouse who disapproves of your family, friends, meds, etc., the root cause of her sexual aversion is irrelevant.

I am getting married to my partner next month. I'm super pumped. Her family is awesome and supportive. I've had a long back and forth with my family about the wedding — including inviting them and saying how much it would mean to me if they would come. I'm trying to be the bigger person, even though they have never been supportive of me as a queer person. I suspect some of them are not coming, as I got a pretty intense email from my sister-in-law about how my family can't support my engagement because blah blah Catholic blah. Yesterday was the RSVP due date, and none of them have responded. So it is now to the point where I'm going to have to call and outright ask if they're coming and potentially absorb all their rejection personally. Here's the kicker: I found out through Facebook that my brother, who I used to think was my ally (he said that he and his GF were going to try to make it to my wedding), is getting married seven days after we are! And he forgot to invite me!!! So with this knowledge, what am I supposed to say when I call asking for RSVPs?

Please Please Please Help

You are not going to absorb your shitty family's rejection personally, PPPH, because you are not going to call each and every shitty member of your shitty family to personally ask each individual shit if they're coming to your wedding. The shits aren't coming — adjust your seating charts accordingly. And you know what? You don't want those shits at your wedding. You don't want to see your shitty sister-in-law's sour face when you look out at your guests. You don't want to see your shitty brother's face — the shit throws you noncommittal shitty scraps and then in a shit move fails to invite you to his own wedding — when you cut the cake. You want people at your wedding who love and support you, who love and support your relationship — and your shitty family has made it abundantly clear that they are incapable of loving and supporting you.

It's worse than that: Your shitty family has made it clear that they will seize any opportunity to wound you. So stop creating those opportunities. Don't send any more invitations, don't make any more phone calls, unfollow the fuckers on Facebook. Devote a week to grieving your loss — this kind of rejection is painful — and then resolve to focus on your wife-to-be, your education, your friends, and your career. Focus on the life you and your fiancée are embarking on together. She's your family now.

Find the Savage Lovecast (the weekly podcast) every Tuesday at SavageLovecast.com.
mail@savagelove.net

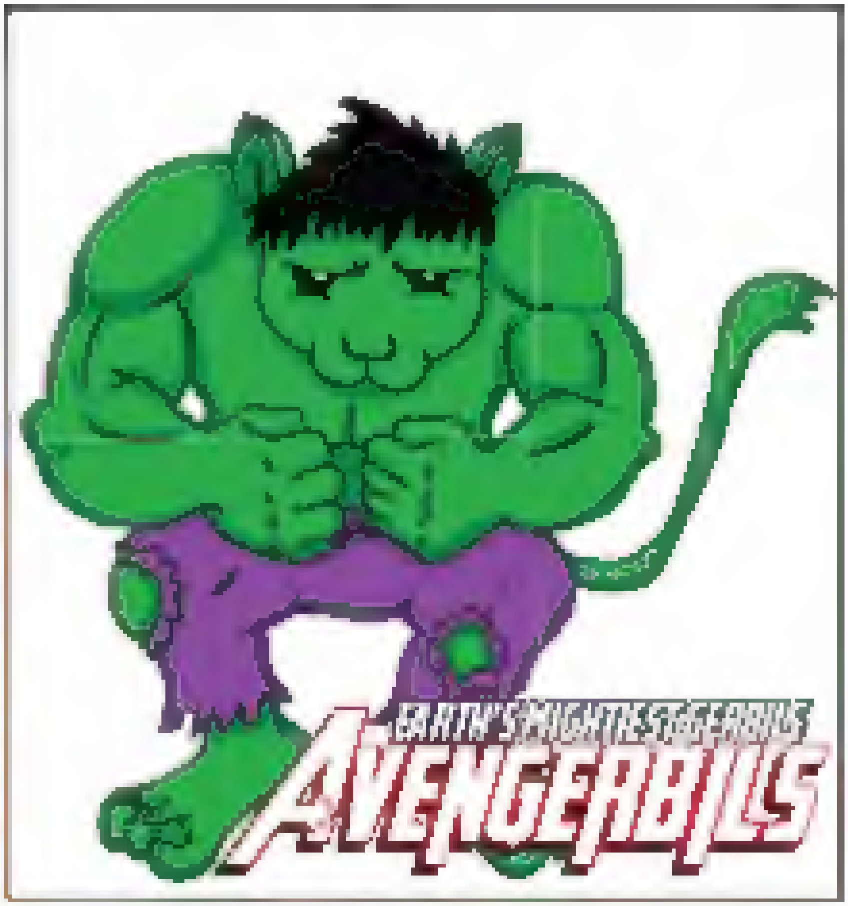
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